



AIDS



DEATH LIKELY BEFORE AGE 35

By STEVE STERNBERG
USA TODAY

DURBAN, South Africa — A child born in Botswana in 2010 can expect to live 29 years — the lowest life expectancy seen in a century — and men in several sub-Saharan countries will greatly outnumber women because of the AIDS crisis, says a study released yesterday.

New projections of the demographic distortions caused by AIDS, released at the International Conference on AIDS in South Africa, show that children in Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe can expect to die before age 35. Life expectancy in several other countries also is dropping, says the report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Study author Karen Stanek projected that by 2010, life expectancy will be 29 in Botswana, 30 in Swaziland and 33 in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Without AIDS, it would have been around 70.

Moreover, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe will experience declines in population, says the report. Without



The Associated Press

■ Above, Zozipho Mazibuko, 23, and her son Nhlakani-pho — who are both HIV-positive — wait to be seen at a care center in Durban, South Africa. Top left, South African High Court Judge Edwin Cameron, who stated he was HIV-positive and gay, held a news conference yesterday to criticize South African President Thabo Mbeki, who supports theories that the HIV virus does not cause AIDS.

AIDS, population growth would have been 2 percent to 3 percent each year in each of those countries.

Almost two-thirds of the 34 million people worldwide who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, live in sub-Saharan Africa; the study indicates that the 100-percent-fatal disease will warp whole populations, emptying communities and setting the stage for vast migrations of men seeking women.

The United Nations' AIDS

agency reported that by 2000, 55 percent of all HIV infections were in women. By 2020, the gender balance could be 60 percent male to 40 percent female among people of childbearing ages in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, Stanek said.

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■ WORLD OUTLOOK IS BLEAK. PAGE D10

Brownfields plan sees stores, offices at Superfund site

By MARY ANN BOURBEAU
STAFF WRITER

A federal Superfund site in South Plainfield could be developed for retail, office use and open space if a plan unveiled yesterday is approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Borough Council.

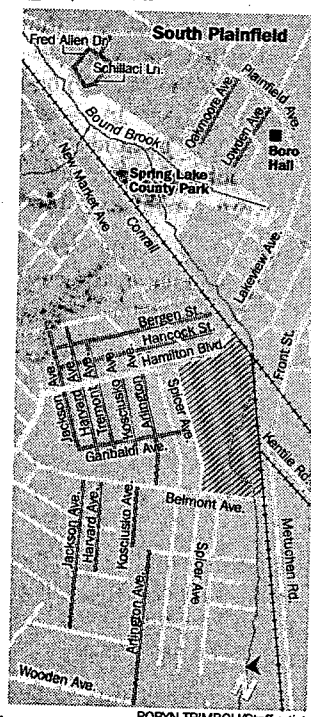
Two former owners of the tract, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Inc. and the Dana Corp., have proposed an expedited plan for remediation of the land, followed by a mixed-use development which would include retail, mini-storage and office/light industrial uses.

There would be 25,000 square feet of retail space and 313 parking spaces along Hamilton Boulevard, which the companies believe would not only enhance the neighborhood aesthetically but bolster the borough's downtown redevelopment plan. The project would also generate additional tax revenue for the borough.

A mini-storage facility would be located on the Spicer Avenue side, hidden from view by a buffer of trees. The office and light industrial space would take up about 48 percent of the land, also hidden from the view of neighboring homes by a landscaped buffer.

All of the buildings on the 27-acre tract would be torn down. The balance of the property, about 40 percent of the land, would be devoted to open space, including two freshwater retention ponds to contain the rainfall runoff

— Streets to be studied
— Superfund site



ROBYN TRIMBOL/Staff artist

from the site.

The two former owners hired Beacon Planning and Realty Advisors of Colts Neck, which outlined the two- to three-year plan they hope will defray the hefty price of clearing the contaminants. The land's current owner, D.S.C Enterprises of Newark, has not yet agreed to join the redevelopment process.

In 1997 and 1998, the EPA found high levels of contaminants — including polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs — in soil samples at the industrial park. PCBs are oils once used as a coolant in large electrical devices such as transformers. Cornell-Dubilier manufactured electrical equipment

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Appraiser gets five years' probation as judge OKs plea

By MICHELLE SAHN
STAFF WRITER

A New Brunswick-based real-estate appraiser was sentenced yesterday to five years' probation for tampering with time sheets he submitted to North Brunswick Township and failing to pay state income tax on some of his earnings.

Anthony J. Billings, 61, who

worked for North Brunswick in 1996 and 1997, pleaded guilty on May 30 to tampering with public records and failing to file gross income tax returns for the state of New Jersey.

Authorities said Billings filed time sheets for work he never performed, then failed to pay state income taxes on some of his salary.

North Brunswick officials have said they plan to sue Billings. They blame him for township tax problems they

said were caused by his reassessments.

Mayor David Spaulding has said Billings, who received a \$200,000 salary, submitted reports that said he assessed homes that did not exist, reported inspecting houses he never visited, and claimed to have done work in North Brunswick when he was in Florida and Las Vegas.

Billings, who was sentenced yesterday before Judge Joyce Munkacsi in state Superior Court in New Brunswick,

pleaded guilty even though Middlesex County authorities had not yet completed their investigation, so his case had not been brought before a grand jury.

His attorney, Michael Critchley, said Billings' willingness to enter into a plea agreement before the investigation was complete saved the county a tremendous amount of time and money. He also said his client has never before been involved with the legal system and is active in

the community.

When he pleaded guilty, authorities said Billings owed the state a total of \$12,439 in taxes, penalties and interest. Since then he has made some payments, and Munkacsi yesterday ordered him to pay the balance of \$7,030 in monthly installments of roughly \$120.

Munkacsi said she received a letter signed by several North Brunswick council members who objected to the

See Plea, Page A2

complex in Old Bridge, police on Friday were called to another private party there to arrest its promoter for allegedly assaulting a woman.

Meanwhile, the Township

Club owner Art Stock, who attended the meeting, said he was prepared to give council members information relating to charges filed by the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

cause a customer had called in a complaint. Upon arriving at the club parking lot, the officer met Elizabeth G. Miller, 20, of Long Branch, who said she had been assaulted by Troy T. Pila, 26, of Lodi.

he replied that he had asked her to leave the party and that she wouldn't, according to police. The officer then arrested Pila, who was later released on his own recognizance.

Birch Hill has had a spate.

LSD, police said.

Stock also is being sued by the family of a 14-year-old Long Branch Middle School honor pupil who drowned during a class outing at the Birch Hill swim club on June 13.

Mayor, two councilmen begin new four-year terms

SPOTSWOOD — Mayor Barry Zagnit and Councilmen James Shearn and Kevin Meade, who won second terms in the May 9 non-partisan election in Spotswood, were installed for another four years at a reorganization meeting last night.

"As I look back at the past four years, I'm struck by the

amount of adversity we encountered," said Zagnit, who praised council members and borough staff for meeting the challenges.

These included building a new Borough Hall, after the old one was declared unsafe and torn down in late 1997, and rehabilitating the DeVoe Lake dam, which was built by the federal government in

the 1930s and had long been in need of repairs.

Officials plan to celebrate Borough Hall's completion on Aug. 12. The \$4.5 million building on Summerhill Road is nearly finished. Municipal offices, including the borough Police Department, already have moved into the two-story structure. Borough offices were housed in rented

trailers for more than two years while work proceeded.

Shearn last night was re-elected president of the five-member council. He and Meade held off a single challenger, Robert Mairs III, in the May election. Zagnit, the borough's former police chief, ran unopposed, as he did four years earlier.

— Ted Serrill

Supremes end reunion tour

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK— Diana Ross won't be keeping many more fans hanging on — the plug has been pulled on her ersatz Supremes reunion tour. The tour suffered from bad karma ever since Mary Wilson and Cindy Birdsong refused to join.

OIL

From Page A1

had anything to do with the financial squeeze that New Jersey residents faced to keep their homes warm.

"Last December was 3.7 degrees above normal, January was 1.2 degrees above normal, and February's temperatures were 4.1 degrees above normal," he said. "As far as last winter goes, there's nothing that should suggest that there was a reason for escalating oil prices or reduced supply."

Ben Brockwell, editor-in-chief of the Oil Price Information Service, Lakewood, said that he also believes that climate is "irrelevant" to Clinton's decision, but that the action is still necessary.

"President Clinton is doing it as a precautionary mea-

sure to avoid what happened last year when there wasn't enough supply, and prices spiked," Brockwell said.

"Because supplies are still low, and maybe even lower because of all the emphasis on making gasoline right now, we need this supply," he said. "And every gallon will help — regardless of whether it's a mild winter or a severe winter."

Following Clinton's announcement, the American Petroleum Institute, a group that represents oil refiners, released a statement expressing concern about the announcement: "While we do not yet know the details of the president's proposal, we are concerned about government intervention in the marketplace and its effect on the private markets."

"The industry is working hard to supply gasoline for this driving season and has

begun to build inventories for the heating season," the statement said. "Adding an additional strain of the creation of a heating reserve may add unnecessarily to this burden."

Although there is no guarantee that refiners are going to willingly participate in the president's program, Brockwell said he thinks that consumers can probably bet that they won't have to pay any more for heating oil this winter.

"The president's program will probably cap prices at no more than what they paid last year," he said. "They (consumers) should pay 20 percent to 30 percent less."

The strategic reserve has been used only once prior to Clinton — by President Bush during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Piscataway man found dead

STAFF REPORT

PLAINFIELD — A 39-year-old Piscataway man was found dead Monday afternoon in the 600 block of Watchung Avenue, according to police.

Alan Ens was pronounced dead at 1:09 p.m., despite attempts to revive him by members of the Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6 from Muhlenberg Regional

Medical Center, police said. They had responded to a call about an unconscious man.

An autopsy will be conducted by the Union County Medical Examiner's Office, police said.

Anyone with information about the death can call detective Dino Caminiti at (908) 753-3415, or the Tips line at (908) 654-TIPS (8477).

PLEA

From Page A1

plea agreement. She said she also received a similar petition from some township residents.

Munkacs said she understands that some people may feel aggrieved because Billings will not serve jail time,

but she said the plea agreement seemed to be a good way to resolve the criminal matter because both sides benefit. Billings received probation and the county does not have to continue a costly investigation and possible trial.

Ninety-five percent of the cases in which a person is indicted result in plea agreements, Munkacs said.

PLAN

From Page A1

until the plant closed in 1962.

PCBs are highly toxic and can enter the body through inhalation, skin contact or ingestion. Potentially hazardous levels were found in the soil, inside buildings, and in sediments and fish taken from the Bound Brook, which crosses the site.

Several cleanup measures have been taken at the site and surrounding residential properties, and some areas have been covered with asphalt. But the contaminated soil must be removed before any plan is set in motion.

If the plan is approved, the land would be cleaned as a so-called brownfields site — part of a nationwide program that encourages the reuse of old industrial sites by developers rather than building on open space.

While the EPA might take six to eight years to clean up the tract, it could be cleaned in two years as a brownfield, said Monica Conyngham, an attorney who represents Cornell-Dubilier. But the EPA must first approve the brownfields approach. Cleanup standards would be based on the land uses chosen for the site, and must meet EPA and state Department of Environmental Protection standards.

"Our goal is to speed up

the process," said Conyngham. "With the current real estate market, it's good for the owner, and it's a win for the community to have it accelerated. I believe in the end it makes economic sense."

Gordon N. Gemma of Beacon Planning said he felt mixed-use retail would work best in South Plainfield, filling the spaces with shops residents could walk to and encouraging a vibrant town center. He suggested a night-

club and art houses in addition to dry cleaners and delis.

"It may not replicate the redeveloped downtowns in Red Bank or Newark, but we can create a downtown that fits South Plainfield," he said.

The plan, which would not require any borough funding, will be presented to the council Thursday at 8 p.m. at the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave. The public will be able to review the plan and make comments.

County board to look at east-west road between routes 27 and 130

By FRANCES CARROLL
STAFF WRITER

The creation of a direct east-west connector linking routes 27 and 130 at Finnegan Lane on the boundary of North Brunswick and South

Brunswick will be the subject of a nearly \$350,000 study this summer.

The Middlesex County Board of Freeholders on Thursday is expected to authorize a feasibility study for

the extension of Finnegan Lane between its existing end at Route 1 out to Route 130. The board is expected to award a \$344,281 contract to Maser Consulting, to study possible alignments between routes 1 and 130.

The study was requested by officials in North Brunswick and South Brunswick who want to make east-west travel more convenient for area motorists, said John Reiser, county engineer.

The only roads in the area

linking routes 27 and 130 are two-lane, winding paths. It is not clear yet whether a proposed Finnegan Lane extension would be two or four lanes, he said, but officials are certain "it would be a very active roadway."

SPORTS
**INJURIES TAKING
TOLL ON STARS**

Almost half of the
elected starters to tonight's
All-Star Game will not
play because of injuries.

PAGE C1



SPORTS
**WILLIAMS SISTERS
ADD TO HARDWARE**

Venus and Serena Williams
teammated to win the women's
doubles title in a rain-delayed
match at Wimbledon.

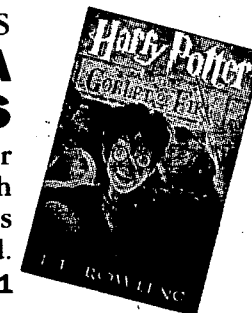
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BUSINESS
**POTTER MANIA
HITS BOOKSTORES**

Young wizard Harry Potter
provided some cash
register magic for the nation's
bookstores this weekend.

PAGE D1



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